REMARKS

Claims 1-12 have been canceled and claims 13-25 added. Claims 13-25 correspond to the allowed claims of the parent application, U.S. Application No. 09/370,295. No new matter is added by the addition of claims 13-25.

Entry of the amendments and favorable consideration of the application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: 2/25/02

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In showing the changes, deleted material is shown as brackets, and inserted material is shown underlined.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

First paragraph on page 1:

This application is a continuation application of U.S. Application No. 09/370,295, filed August 9, 1999, which claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/096,342, filed August 12, 1998.

First complete paragraph on page 6:

"Codon degeneracy" refers to divergence in the genetic code permitting variation of the nucleotide sequence without [effecting] affecting the amino acid sequence of an encoded polypeptide. Accordingly, the instant invention relates to any nucleic acid fragment comprising a nucleotide sequence that encodes all or a substantial portion of the amino acid sequences set forth herein. The skilled artisan is well aware of the "codon-bias" exhibited by a specific host cell in usage of nucleotide codons to specify a given amino acid. Therefore, when synthesizing a nucleic acid fragment for improved expression in a host cell, it is desirable to design the nucleic acid fragment such that its frequency of codon usage approaches the frequency of preferred codon usage of the host cell.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-12 canceled.

Claims 13-25 added.